
The Connection

Newsletter of Shrewsbury Media Connection

Volume 20, No. 1 Winter 2007

Statewide Threat to PEG Access

The fight for PEG and local control of the Cable license has shifted from the national legislature to the state. A bill written by Verizon and submitted to the state legislators for consideration, seeks to take away the right of local governments from controlling their own future cable licenses. The Bill is currently titled "Chapter 166B State Issued Cable Franchising and Regulation.". Here are some of the key issues that the passage of this bill would affect:

- The State would be required to complete their review of new licenses within 15 days without any review of the applicants financial and technical qualifications.*
- Provides no mechanism for the negotiation of better terms or community specific needs.*
- Provides no mechanism for negotiating service area, allowing new provider to pick and choose neighborhoods to serve and allows the licensee to simply notify the State when it wishes to increase it's service area, no application needed.*
- Limits the amount of PEG channels and allows for the removal of PEG channels based on strict hours of programming and repeat requirements.*
- Does not require emergency override capability for municipality.*
- Does not require new licensee to match current license obligations which threatens current license agreements.*

Verizon and the Bill's sponsors keep referring to the legislation as a way to provide consumer choice and speed up broadband deployment, yet Verizon is the one holding up negotiations in many of the communities where they are negotiating licenses. Verizon has openly admitted that they won't be able to service some of the Town's that have agreements for many months. For more information, and how to respond go to:

www.massaccess.org

Annual Meeting to be held in April

The SMC Annual Meeting is scheduled for, Wednesday, April 18th, refreshments at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 PM.

A couple of By-Law changes are on the agenda including, a restructuring of the Advisory Board; and a change in Board meeting requirements. There will also be the Advisory Board elections with three, two year terms up for election. Please join us and give your input and vote for your Board members!



SPAC Celebrates 20th!

The group pictured above were just some of the folks that attended the Open House at the SMC studios on Saturday morning, November 25th. The first hired employee, George Preston returned for the event as did the other former SPAC managers, Lisa Berg and Stan Poreda. To also commemorate the event, SMC held a Film Festival that evening.

SMC Staff

Bill Nay - Community Programming Manager
Marc Serra - Access Coordinator
LoriAnne Bergman - SPAC TV 28 Program Coordinator
Liz Poplawski - SETV 29 Educational Coordinator
Maria Sheehan - SGTV 30 Government Coordinator
Paul Gustafson - Technical Coordinator

SMC Advisory Board

Laurie Hogan - Chair
Nick Todisco - Vice Chair
John McDonald - Secretary
Paul Weaver
Erica Bodden

Classes & Production

SPAC TV 28 Update - PUBLIC

LoriAnne Bergman, SPAC TV 28 Programming Coordinator

After 20 years of P.E.G. access in Shrewsbury, our community continues to produce quality programming. The act of participating and meeting others in your community as you produce your show sets the cornerstone for communicating your message. Many people have participated in this vital communication between neighbors as they work behind the scenes at cameras and computers, performing, teaching or speaking to the camera/audience, or tuning in to watch and respond to the programming. Community produced programs on SPAC TV 28 this year totalled 420 and your neighbors also sponsored 46 series and specials from all over. This is a total of 1,939 original hours on SPAC TV 28 for 2006. I look forward to our **Annual Producers Awards Night March 30th** in it's 18 year when we recognize our dedicated volunteers and supporters of First Amendment expression in Shrewsbury. As the season changes, stay tuned to SPAC TV 28 as the popular open mic program, *Freely Speaking LIVE* returns on **April 4th** where it's your turn to speak.

SETV 29 Update - EDUCATIONAL

by Liz Poplawski, SETV 28 Coordinator

When the educational channel was opened 10 years ago, one of the goals was to utilize technology to keep the school community informed of important notices. We accomplished this during the Valentine's Day snowstorm with Dr. Bent utilizing our new Princeton server playback system. Through the internet, I was able to put up a scrolling graphic on SETV channel 29 notifying Shrewsbury residents that school was cancelled for the day. Over President's Day weekend, we were able to put another scrolling graphic up warning residents that the ice on Lake Quinsigamond and Flint Pond were unsafe. Residents should notice some major changes in the next few weeks as far as programming as we implement this new system.

SGTV 30 Update - GOVERNMENT

by Maria Sheehan, SGTV 30 Coordinator

2007 marks the 20th anniversary Town Meeting being cablecast on the access channels in Shrewsbury! The first cablecast of a Town Meeting was 2/19/87 by SPAC staff and volunteers. This year's Town Meeting is scheduled for May 21st and 23rd. We need your help!

**SMC will be entering a team
in the American Cancer Relay
for Life, contact us for more
info or to join us!**



FREE CLASSES

New Class

Interested in finding out what **YouTube** is all about? Do you want to share your shows with the world? Then, join us for a brief session that will enlighten you as to what this internet phenomenon is, and how you can become a part of it. Together we'll create you an account, get your short clips ready for sharing and post them for the world to see. Class size is limited to 4.

You on YouTube

April 10 & 17 @7PM

BASIC FIELD PRODUCTION

A comprehensive 2-session course. Training in single camera digital video production including: camera use, shooting techniques, lighting, audio and more. The course will enable participants to produce programming for cablecast on Channel 28. Orientation is a prerequisite to this class.
Class Dates: March 6 & 13 @7PM

BASIC STUDIO

Introductory 3-session course on the basics of operating cameras, recording sound, technical directing, managing a production, and the use of Scala graphics in the SMC studio. You will get hands-on experience during class. This course will enable participants to produce programming for cablecast on SPAC TV 28. Orientation is a prerequisite.

Dates: March 20, 27 & April 3 @7PM

DIGITAL EDITING

3-sessions cover features of Apple's Final Cut Pro editing software. Cut and Paste video clips, add music, graphics, and transitions all in one easy to use interface.

Class Dates: May 1, 8 & 15 @7PM

**Shrewsbury
Media
Connection**

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INSIDE

**P.E.G.
Producer(s) of the Year
for 2006**

Who will it be?

**18th Annual
Producer Appreciation
Awards Dinner**

Friday, March 30, 2007
Knights of Columbus



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SMC Annual Meeting-insert

Schedules for Channels 28, 29 , 30

Do You ,You Tube?- page 3

FREELY SPEAKING RETURNS!

Spring will bring the return of the popular open mic program on SPAC TV 28 that allows residents the opportunity to express themselves for 5 minutes on a live unedited show. Beginning April 4th, **Freely Speaking LIVE** returns Wednesdays at 7 pm repeated Thursday at midnight, 9:30 am & 12 noon



Proposed Changes to SMC By-Laws for Annual Meeting 2007

ARTICLE IV. - ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1. Selection, Qualifications, and Term: The Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) voting members of SMC elected at Annual Meeting for a two (2) year term. Advisory Board Members shall not serve more than five (5) consecutive terms. Vacancies may be filled by the vote of the remaining members of the Advisory Board. Advisory Board Members must be over 18 years of age.

Proposed changes to Section 1.

Change, “five voting members” to “seven(7) voting members.”

Change, “two year term” to “three year term”

Change, “five consecutive terms” to “three consecutive terms”

Section 2. Powers: The Advisory Board shall meet on a monthly basis with SMC’s Manager of Community Programming to monitor and evaluate the activities of SMC. The Advisory Board shall serve as an advisory body to the Board of Commissioners of the Shrewsbury Electric & Cable Operations for community programming. The Advisory Board shall appoint committees as appropriate. The Advisory Board shall submit an annual report to the membership, including but not limited to, goals and objectives for the year. See Franchise and SMC Policy & Guidelines for additional powers.

Proposed changes to Section 2.

Change, “meet on a monthly basis” to “meet on a regular basis”

Section 4. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Advisory Board of SMC (3 members) shall constitute a quorum.

Proposed change to Section 4.

Remove, “(3 members)”

Section 6. Removal of Board Members: If any Advisory Board member misses four (4) regularly scheduled meetings within a one-year period, they shall be removed.

Proposed changes for Section 6.

Change, “shall” to “may”

Add, “by a majority vote of entire Advisory Board.”

ARTICLE VI. - RELATIONSHIP TO SELCO

Section 2. Relationship to SMC staff: The Advisory Board shall meet with SMC’s Community Programming Manager monthly to discuss and make recommendations regarding community programming.

Proposed changes for Section 2

Change, “monthly” to “regularly”

ARTICLE VII. - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be held within 90 days of April with the exact date to be determined by the Advisory Board. The annual meeting shall elect Advisory Board members and transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Proposed changes to Article VII, Section 1.

Change, “held within 90 days of April” to “held within 30 days of April 15th.”

Shrewsbury Media Connection Annual Meeting April 17, 2007

Social/Refreshments 6:30 PM

Meeting begins 7:00 PM

Agenda will include:

ADVISORY BOARD'S REPORT

MANAGER'S REPORT

VOTE TO CHANGE BY LAWS

(See other side for proposed changes)

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

Three seats are up for election

Show your support for the Board!

JOIN US!